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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Greece, Israel, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Uruguay and Venezuela: revised draft resolution

Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Firmly convinced that, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights,

Also convinced that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the coordination of the Centre for Human Rights with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law, 2/

Recalling also its resolution 48/132 of 20 December 1993, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/50 of 4 March 1994, 3/

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General submitted in conformity with resolution 48/132; 4/

2. Takes note with interest of the proposals contained therein for strengthening the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in order to comply fully with the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning assistance to States in strengthening their institutions of the rule of law;

3. Praises the efforts made by the Centre for Human Rights to accomplish its ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at its disposal;

4. Expresses its deep concern at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Centre for Human Rights for the fulfilment of its tasks;

5. Notes that the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation does not count on capital assistance funds to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends, but which face economic hardship;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of obtaining the necessary capital assistance funds from the financial institutions of the United Nations system;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the results of the contacts he may establish in accordance with paragraph 6 above, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights contained in paragraph 69 of section II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24).

4/ A/49/512.